

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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DEPT PASS NOAA FOR MARTINEAU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, TBIO, TOCY, PLOS, UR, US

SUBJECT: NOAA MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 11509, (B) STATE 178332,

METAL'NIKOV, OF THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SCST), SOUGHT OUT SCICOUNS AT AUGUST 17 RECEPTION TO REQUEST MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROGRAMS WHICH THE NOAA RESEARCH VESSELS SURVEYOR AND DISCOVERER WILL BE CARRYING OUT IN BERING SEA WITHIN THE SOVIET 200 MILE ZONE, METAL'NIKOV STRESSED THAT THE UNDERSTOOD U.S. POSITION ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WITHIN THE 200 MILE ZONE; HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT THE SOVIETS REGARD THE BERING SEA AS A SENSITIVE AREA. METAL'NIKOV STATED THAT HE WAS NOT ASKING U.S. TO SUBMIT REQUEST FOR PERMISSION, MERELY SEEKING MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS OF THE NOAA VESSELS. IN PARTICULAR, METAL'NIKOV REQUESTED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT "LIVING MARINE RESOURCES RESEARCH," SUCH AS BIRD AND MAMMAL OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE VESSELS WILL CONDUCT. HE ALSO REQUESTED PRECISE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DATES WHEN

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THE SHIPS WILL BE STOPPING AT THE RESEARCH STATIONS SHOWN ON THE CHART WE GAVE THE SOVIETS AND THE TYPE OF RESEARCH THEY WILL DO AT THESE STATIONS.

2. COMMENT. THE PURPOSEFUL MANNER IN WHICH METAL'NIKOV SOUGHT OUT SCICOUNS AND THE CAREFUL PHRASING HE EMPLOYED DURING THE DISCUSSION MAKE IT OBVIOUS THAT HE WAS ACTING

UNDER INSTRUCTIONS. WE ARE NOT SURE WHAT IS BEHIND THE SOVIET REQUEST AND WE DO NOT WANT TO GIVE THE SOVIETS A PRETEXT FOR ASKING US TO REQUEST PERMISSION TO CONDUCT THE RESEARCH. HOWEVER, THE UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. POSITION WHICH METAL'NIKOV EXPRESSED, LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO ACCEDE TO THE SOVIET REQUEST FOR MORE INFORMATION. WE NOTE THAT REF B STATES NOAA CAN PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE RESEARCH STATIONS IF IT IS REQUESTED BY THE SOVIETS, AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING SUCH INFORMATION FOR TRANSMITTAL TO METAL'NIKOV. END COMMENT.

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